

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented electronic bid method by a service provider, comprising:

registering, through a network, a user as a buyer and merchandise items/services that the buyer wants to buy in a first database;

registering, through the network, a user as a seller and merchandise items/services that the seller is offering to sell in a second database;

categorizing a plurality of buyers from the first database into groups based upon the merchandise items/services the plurality of buyers want to buy;

selecting sellers from the second database who are offering to sell the merchandise items/services used to form the group of the plurality of buyers and providing potential buyer information to the selected sellers, the potential buyer information including a number of buyers in the group of the plurality of buyers; and

receiving selling information including a selling price of the merchandise items/services to offer from at least one of the selected sellers and providing the selling information to each buyer in the group of the plurality of buyers,

wherein the seller determines the selling price of the merchandise items/services based upon the potential buyer information provided to the seller.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, wherein the potential buyer information includes a purchase request

merchandise code information and a quantity but does not include a user ID for specifying a buyer.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, further comprising notifying the seller of a purchase request quantity for each merchandise item.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, registering the merchandise/service includes accessing a predetermined web page or via electronic mail.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, wherein when merchandise providing information is presented by at least one seller, the buyer checks sales conditions of the merchandise providing information and makes a sales agreement.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 14, further comprising:

deleting the first database information concerning the buyer upon reception of the notification of cancellation of continued will of a purchase request from the buyer, once the sales agreement is made.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) An electronic bid system by a service provider, comprising:

means for registering, through a network, a user as a buyer and merchandise items/services that the buyer wants to buy in a first database;

means for registering, through the network, a user as a seller and merchandise items/services that the seller is offering to sell in a second database;

means for categorizing a plurality of buyers from the first database into groups based upon the merchandise items/services the plurality of buyers want to buy;

means for selecting sellers from the second database who are offering to sell the merchandise items/services used to form the group of the plurality of buyers and providing potential buyer information to the selected sellers, the potential buyer information including a number of buyers in the group of the plurality of buyers; and

means for receiving selling information including a selling price of the merchandise items/services to offer from at least one of the selected sellers and providing the selling information to each of buyers in the group of the plurality of buyers,

wherein the seller determines the selling price of the merchandise/service based upon the potential buyer information provided to the seller.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 16, wherein the potential buyer information includes a purchase request merchandise code information and a quantity but does not include a user ID for specifying a buyer.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 16, further comprising means for notifying the seller of a purchase request quantity for each merchandise item.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 16, wherein the means for registering the merchandise items/services registers the merchandise items/services by accessing a predetermined web page or via electronic mail.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 15, wherein when merchandise providing information is presented by at least one seller, the buyer checks sales conditions of the merchandise providing information and makes a sales agreement.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for deleting the first database information concerning the buyer upon reception of the notification of cancellation of continued will of a purchase request from the buyer, once the sales agreement is made.

Claim 22 (New). The computer-implemented bid method according to claim 10, wherein the number of buyers in the same group of the plurality of buyers is used by the seller to determine the selling price of the merchandise items/services.

Claim 23 (New). The computer-implemented bid method according to claim 16, wherein the number of buyers in the same group of the plurality of buyers is used by the seller to determine the selling price of the merchandise items/services.